175

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Advance Data

From Vital and Health Statistics of the National Center for Health Statistics

AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes for December 1988

Provisional Data From the National Health Interview Survey

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Introduction

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has included a special set of supplemental questions on the adult population's knowledge and attitudes about acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). The first AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes Survey was in the field from August through December 1987. Provisional results of that survey were published on a monthly basis in *Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics* (Nos. 146, 148, 150, 151, and 153). A public use data tape containing the information collected in 1987 is available from NCHS. During the first 4 months of 1988, the NHIS AIDS questionnaire was revised to meet current program needs for information about AIDS awareness. The revised AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes Survey entered the field in May 1988. Provisional findings for May through November were published in *Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics*, Nos. 160, 161, 163, 164, and 167. This report presents provisional results for December 1988.

The *Advance Data* reports describing the NHIS AIDS data have been restricted to simple descriptive statistics to facilitate their timely release. Thus, these reports do not attempt to explain or interpret differences among population subgroups in AIDS knowledge or to examine relationships among various measures of knowledge, attitudes, and perceived risk. The 1987 and 1988 NHIS AIDS data bases permit more complex analyses than those presented in this series of *Advance Data* reports, and such analyses are being undertaken by various groups in the Public Health Service.

The AIDS questionnaires were designed to estimate public knowledge and attitudes about AIDS transmission and prevention of AIDS virus infection. The data were needed as input for the planning and development of AIDS educational campaigns and for monitoring major educational efforts, for example, the series of radio and television public service announcements entitled "America Responds to AIDS" and the brochure "Understanding AIDS," both developed by the Centers for Disease Control.

The 1987 and 1988 AIDS questionnaires were developed by the National Center for Health Statistics and interagency working groups established by the Information, Education and Risk Factor Reduction Subcommittee of the Public Health Service Executive Task Force on AIDS. The working groups included representatives from the Centers for Disease Control; the National Institutes of Health; the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration; and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

The current AIDS questionnaire includes items on sources of AIDS information; self-assessed levels of AIDS knowledge; basic facts about the AIDS virus and how it is transmitted; blood donation experience; awareness of and experience with the blood test for the AIDS virus; perceived effectiveness of selected preventive measures; self-assessed chances of getting the AIDS virus; personal acquaintance with persons with AIDS or the AIDS virus; and willingness to take part in a proposed national seroprevalence survey. A general risk behavior question, similar to that asked by the Red Cross of potential blood donors, is included in the 1988 AIDS questionnaire.

This report presents provisional data for December 1988 for most items included in the AIDS questionnaire. Table 1 displays percent distributions of persons 18 years of age and over by response categories according to age, sex, race, and

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education. In most cases, the actual questions asked of the respondents are reproduced verbatim in table 1 along with the coded response categories. In a few cases, questions or response categories have been rephrased or combined for clearer or more concise presentation of results. Refusals and other nonresponse categories are excluded from the denominator in the calculation of estimates, but responses of "don't know" are included.

Selected findings

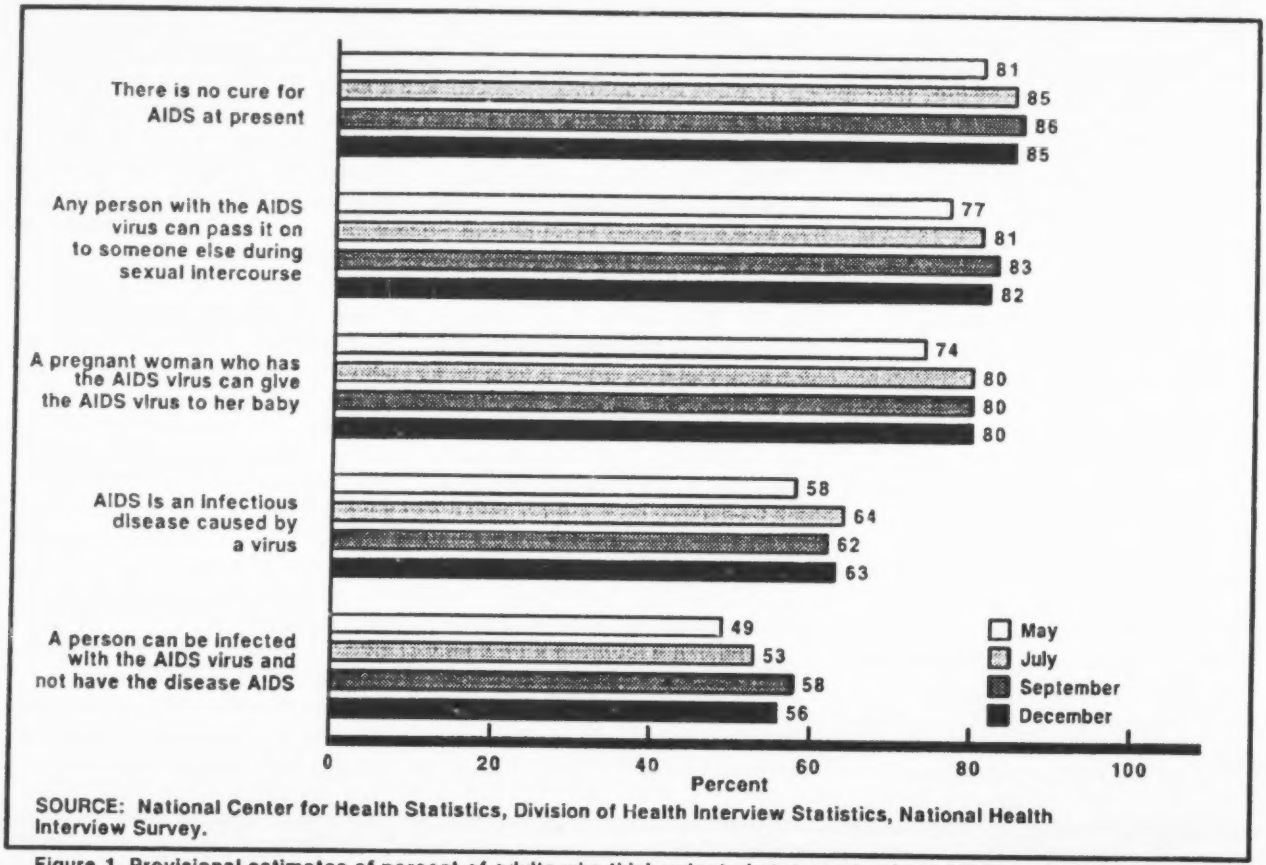
The following highlights describe various aspects of changes in AIDS knowledge and attitudes as observed in the May–December 1988 data from the NHIS AIDS survey. Any differences cited in the text are statistically significant at the 0.05 level (see table II for approximate standard errors of estimates).

Sources of AIDS information—Eighty percent of adults interviewed in December 1988 reported having seen AIDS public service announcements on television in the past month, and 42 percent reported hearing announcements on the radio. These proportions were slightly lower than the proportions who reported seeing or hearing such announcements between May and July 1988 (84–86 percent saw announcements on television and 48–49 percent heard announcements on the radio). In December, as in previous months in 1988, the proportion of adults who had seen or heard announcements was higher for those with 12 or more years of school than for those with less than 12 years.

In May, 25 percent of adults reported having read brochures in the month before interview; this proportion increased to 52 percent in June and July, coincident with the national mailout of the brochure "Understanding AIDS." From August through December, this figure declined so that by December only 28 percent had recently read brochures. From May to July, the percent of adults who reported ever reading brochures or pamphlets about AIDS increased from 43 to 68 percent. This figure remained between 65 and 67 percent through December.

Self-assessed knowledge—In December 1988, 21 percent of adults reported that they knew a lot about AIDS, 44 percent reported some knowledge, 27 percent claimed to know a little, and 8 percent stated that they knew nothing. The proportion of adults in these various response categories did not change from May through December.

General knowledge—For many of the general AIDS knowledge questions, increases in the percent of adults giving the correct definitive responses were noted after May 1988. As shown in Figure 1, the proportion who thought it definitely true that there is no cure for AIDS at present increased from 81 percent in May to



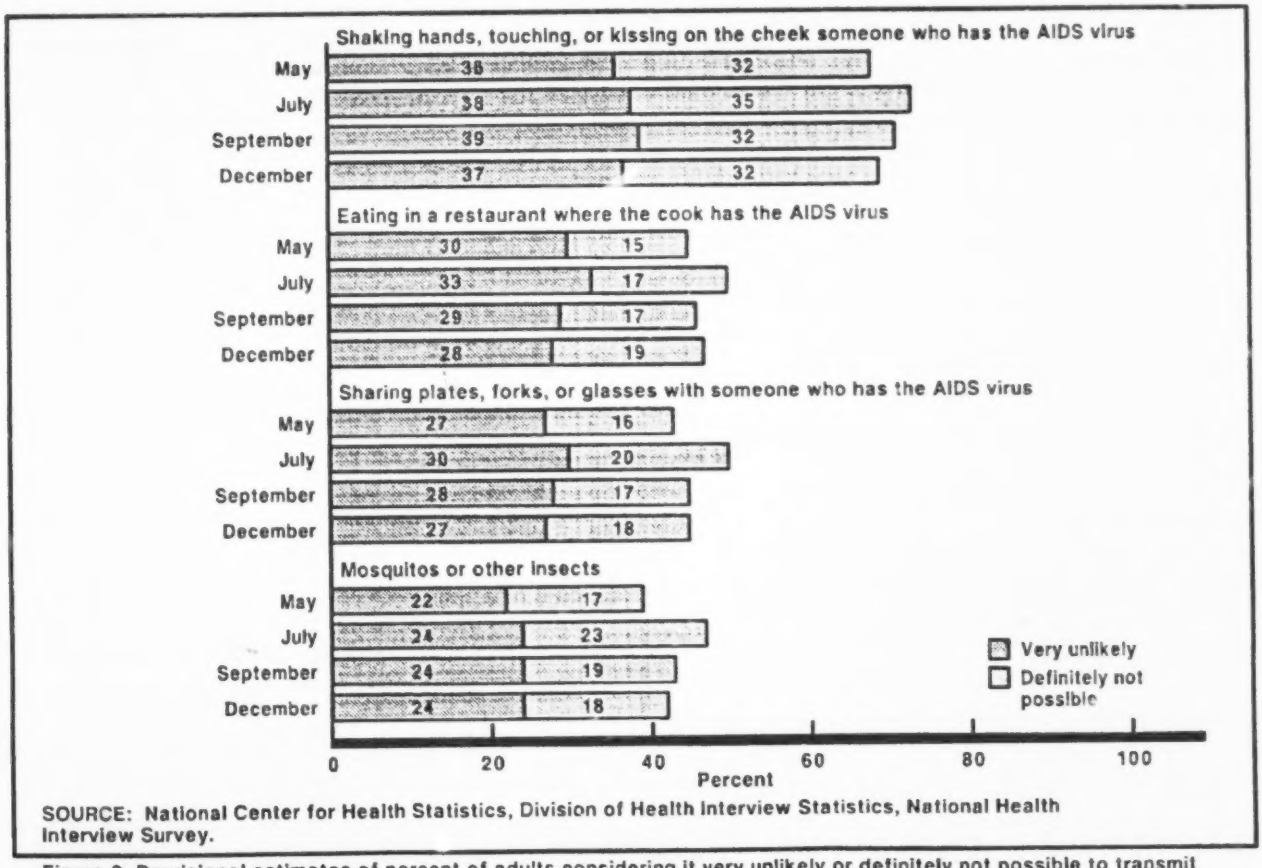
SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, Division of Health Interview Statistics, National Health Interview Survey.

Figure 1. Provisional estimates of percent of adults who think selected statements about AIDS are definitely true: United States, May, July, September, and December 1988

85 percent in December. Similar increases were noted in the proportion who thought it definitely true that any person with the AIDS virus can pass it on to someone else during sexual intercourse (from 77 to 82 percent), that a pregnant women who has the AIDS virus can give the AIDS virus to her baby (from 74 to 80 percent), that AIDS is an infectious disease caused by a virus (from 58 to 63 percent), and that a person can be infected with the AIDS virus and not have the disease AIDS (from 49 to 56 percent). As in the previous months in 1988, the proportion responding correctly to the various AIDS knowledge questions in December increased with education and was higher for those under 50 years of age than for older adults. When the proportions with the correct definitive response were examined by race, the increase in knowledge after May was more pronounced for black adults than for white adults. For some questions, the magnitude of the difference between the proportion of black and white adults responding correctly decreased. For other questions, racial differentials were completely eliminated. By December, similar proportions of white adults and black adults responded correctly to more than half of the general knowledge questions including those about the major modes of transmission of the AIDS virus (sexual, parenteral, and perinatal).

Misperceptions about transmission of the AIDS virus—A series of questions in the NHIS AIDS survey addressed misperceptions about transmission of the AIDS virus through casual contact. It had been previously noted that accurate knowledge in this area had increased from 1987 to May 1988. From May to June and July 1988, additional increases in knowledge were noted. After July 1988, however, the proportion with the correct responses began to decrease somewhat, so that by December 1988, the proportion responding correctly to questions about casual transmission was often no different from that observed in May 1988. As shown in figure 2, the percent of adults who thought it was very unlikely or definitely not possible to transmit AIDS by shaking hands increased from 68 percent in May to 73 percent in July and dropped to 71 percent in September and to 69 percent in December. A similar pattern was noted for most of the other conjectured modes of transmission. In December, as in previous months in 1988, the proportion of adults responding correctly to questions about transmission increased with education. However, the pattern described above of an increase in the proportion responding correctly from May to June and July with a decline in subsequent months was noted at all levels of education.

Blood donation and testing—In December 1988, 41 percent of adults


Shaking hands, touching, or kissing on the cheek someone who has the AIDS virus
May 38 32
July 38 35
September 39 32
December 37 32
Eating in a restaurant where the cook has the AIDS virus
May 30 15
July 33 17
September 29 17
December 28 19
Sharing plates, forks, or glasses with someone who has the AIDS virus
May 27 16
July 30 20
September 28 17
December 27 18
Mosquitos or other insects
May 22 17
July 24 23
September 24 19
December 24 18
Very unlikely
Definitely not possible
0 20 40 60 80 100
Percent

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, Division of Health Interview Statistics, National Health Interview Survey.

Figure 2. Provisional estimates of percent of adults considering it very unlikely or definitely not possible to transmit the AIDS virus in selected ways: United States, May, July, September, and December 1988

stated that they had ever donated blood, 15 percent had donated since March 1985 when routine screening of donated blood for antibodies to HIV began, and 7 percent had donated in the year preceding interview. For all blood donation questions, the percent donating increased with education, and men were more likely to have donated than women.

Three-quarters of all adults had heard of the AIDS blood test as of December 1988. Slightly fewer (67 percent) knew that blood donations are now routinely screened for AIDS virus infection, and less than half (46 percent) thought that the present blood supply was safe for transfusion. These proportions were similar throughout 1988.

Including all blood donors since March 1985, a total of 19 percent of adults in December had had their blood tested for antibodies to the AIDS virus, slightly higher than the 16 percent interviewed in May. This increase in testing between May and December was noted in four specific population subgroups: the 18–29 years age group (from 23 to 29 percent), white adults (from 16 to 20 percent), those with more than 12 years of school (from 21 to 26 percent), and men (from 20 to 24 percent). Of those who were tested as of December, most (72 percent) had their testing done as part of a blood donation, 16 percent were tested voluntarily, and 12 percent took the test as part of another activity requiring routine testing (such as a physical examination for military induction). These figures were similar to those in earlier months in 1988.

In December, 6 percent of adults reported plans to be tested in the 12 months following the NHIS interview; this figure also remained stable throughout 1988.

Preventive measures—As of December 1988, 84 percent of adults thought that condoms were very or somewhat effective in preventing transmission of the AIDS virus; 82 percent of adults thought that having a monogamous relationship with an individual who is not infected with the AIDS virus was a very effective means of prevention. These proportions did not change from May through December. As in previous months in 1988, over half of all adults in December recognized that the diaphragm, spermicides, and vasectomy are not effective in preventing AIDS virus transmission. Most of the remainder were uncertain about the effectiveness of these particular methods.

Risk of getting the AIDS virus—Overall, 3 percent of adults in December 1988 stated that they belonged to one or more of the groups with behaviors associated with increased risk for aquiring AIDS (such as intravenous drug users and homosexually active men). This proportion remained stable throughout 1988.

In December, only 1 percent of adults felt that they had a high chance of having or getting the AIDS virus; 2 percent felt that their chance of getting the AIDS virus was medium, 18 percent felt that they had a low chance, 76 percent felt that they had no chance of getting AIDS, and 3 percent could not assess their chances of getting AIDS. The proportion in December believing that they have no chance of acquiring AIDS was slightly higher than that reported in May (71 percent).

Suggested citation

Hardy AM, Dawson DA. AIDS knowledge and attitudes for December 1988: Provisional data from the National Health Interview Survey. *Advance data from vital and health statistics; no. 175.* Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1989.

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Symbols

–	Quantity zero
0	Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, December 1988

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Education		
		18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
	Percent distribution[1]										
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1. In the past month, have you—											
1a. Seen any public service announcements about AIDS on television?											
Yes	80	83	83	76	81	80	81	79	71	82	84
No	17	16	15	21	17	18	16	19	25	16	14
Don't know	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	4	2	2
1b. Heard any public service announcements about AIDS on the radio?											
Yes	42	50	46	31	46	38	41	49	35	43	45
No	54	48	49	64	50	57	54	48	60	54	50
Don't know	4	3	5	5	4	5	4	3	5	4	5
2. Were any of those public service announcements called "America Responds to AIDS"?											
Yes	22	32	22	14	22	23	21	27	22	25	20
No	13	13	13	12	14	12	13	12	12	13	13
Don't know	48	41	51	52	48	48	50	44	41	48	54
Neither heard nor saw any public service announcements	17	13	14	22	16	17	16	17	25	15	13
3. In the past month, have you read any brochures or pamphlets about AIDS?											
Yes	28	34	31	20	25	30	27	33	20	27	34
No	71	66	68	78	74	68	72	66	78	72	65
Don't know	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
4. Have you ever read any brochures or pamphlets about AIDS?											
Yes	65	71	72	54	61	69	65	68	46	66	77
No	34	28	27	45	37	30	33	32	52	33	23
Don't know	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	2	1	1
5. Where did you get the pamphlets or brochures?[1,2]											
Clinic, other than work clinic	3	4	3	2	3	3	3	6	5	3	3
Doctor's office (HMO)	14	15	14	13	11	17	14	17	14	16	12
Drug store	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Public health department	3	4	3	1	2	3	2	3	2	2	3
Received in mail without asking	36	29	35	44	35	37	37	33	38	36	35
Red Cross/Red Cross blood donation	3	4	2	3	3	2	3	1	1	3	4
Other blood donation	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	–	0	1	1
School	11	19	9	4	8	12	10	8	8	8	14
Sent/phoned for/requested it	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Federal/State/local government	21	14	22	27	22	20	21	21	21	20	22
Work, other than clinic or nurse	14	13	17	10	16	12	14	16	7	12	17
Work, nurse or clinic	4	3	6	3	3	5	4	5	2	3	6
Other	14	16	15	11	17	12	13	19	18	14	13
Don't know	4	3	3	4	5	3	4	4	3	4	4
15. Have you ever discussed AIDS with any of your children aged 10-17?[3]											
Yes	62	54	63	60	41	78	63	62	53	57	72
No	38	46	37	40	59	22	37	38	47	43	28
Don't know	0	–	0	–	–	0	0	–	–	–	0
16. Have any or all of your children aged 10-17 had instruction at school about AIDS?[3]											
Yes	61	51	60	68	54	65	61	56	60	60	62
No	11	13	11	6	13	9	11	9	9	11	12
Don't know	28	36	28	26	33	25	27	35	32	29	26
21. How much would you say you know about AIDS?											
A lot	21	22	27	14	21	21	22	17	10	18	31
Some	44	49	49	35	43	46	45	41	32	47	49
A little	27	26	21	34	28	26	26	28	34	31	18
None	8	3	3	17	8	8	7	13	23	4	2
Don't know	0	–	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22. To the best of your knowledge, is there a difference between having the AIDS virus and having the disease AIDS?											
Yes	64	65	72	56	64	65	67	53	43	62	79
No	15	22	15	11	16	15	14	20	17	18	12
Other	0	–	0	0	0	0	0	–	0	0	0
Don't know	20	13	13	33	20	20	18	27	39	19	9
23a. AIDS can reduce the body's natural protection against disease.											
Definitely true	75	77	82	64	76	73	77	62	50	75	88
Probably true	12	13	10	15	13	12	12	14	20	13	7
Probably false	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	4	2	2	1
Definitely false	3	4	2	3	2	4	2	7	5	3	1
Don't know	9	4	5	16	8	9	8	14	22	7	3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, December 1988—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Education		
		18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
	Percent distribution[1]										
23b. AIDS is especially common in older people.											
Definitely true	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	0
Probably true	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	3	3	2	1
Probably false	18	23	15	17	19	17	18	17	16	20	17
Definitely false	72	69	78	68	72	73	74	68	62	73	78
Don't know	7	6	4	12	7	7	6	12	17	5	4
23c. AIDS can damage the brain.											
Definitely true	25	22	25	26	26	23	23	36	24	25	24
Probably true	30	32	29	30	29	31	30	27	29	31	29
Probably false	10	14	11	6	10	10	11	5	5	10	14
Definitely false	9	9	12	5	9	8	9	5	5	8	12
Don't know	26	23	23	33	25	28	27	26	36	26	21
23d. AIDS usually leads to heart disease.											
Definitely true	8	8	8	9	8	8	7	15	11	9	6
Probably true	20	20	20	20	19	21	19	24	21	20	20
Probably false	20	24	22	16	22	19	21	14	13	19	25
Definitely false	15	17	18	10	17	13	16	13	7	15	20
Don't know	36	30	32	45	33	39	36	35	48	36	29
23e. AIDS is an infectious disease caused by a virus.											
Definitely true	63	69	69	52	64	61	63	62	49	61	73
Probably true	19	19	18	21	21	18	19	19	22	20	17
Probably false	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	1	2	3	2
Definitely false	5	4	4	5	3	6	5	4	5	5	4
Don't know	11	5	7	19	10	12	10	14	22	10	5
23f. Teenagers cannot get AIDS.											
Definitely true	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	0
Probably true	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Probably false	3	3	2	5	3	3	3	5	5	3	2
Definitely false	93	96	96	87	94	93	94	89	84	95	97
Don't know	2	1	1	6	2	2	2	4	7	1	0
23g. AIDS leads to death.											
Definitely true	86	86	87	83	85	86	85	91	85	88	83
Probably true	11	11	10	11	12	10	12	5	8	10	13
Probably false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	–	0	0	1
Definitely false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Don't know	2	1	1	4	2	2	2	2	5	1	1
23h. A person can be infected with the AIDS virus and not have the disease AIDS.											
Definitely true	56	60	63	46	57	56	59	47	39	57	66
Probably true	20	19	20	22	20	21	20	20	20	21	20
Probably false	4	6	3	4	4	4	4	6	5	4	4
Definitely false	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	3
Don't know	15	10	10	25	15	15	13	22	31	13	7
23i. Looking at a person is enough to tell if he or she has the AIDS virus.											
Definitely true	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	3	2	1
Probably true	4	4	5	5	5	4	4	9	6	5	3
Probably false	17	18	14	20	17	17	17	19	20	18	14
Definitely false	66	71	74	55	66	67	69	55	47	67	78
Don't know	10	5	6	18	10	10	9	13	25	8	3
23j. Any person with the AIDS virus can pass it on to someone else during sexual intercourse.											
Definitely true	82	86	83	79	81	84	82	85	81	84	82
Probably true	13	11	14	13	14	12	14	9	11	12	15
Probably false	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	–	0	1	1
Definitely false	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
Don't know	4	2	2	7	4	3	3	4	7	3	2
23k. A person who has the AIDS virus can look and feel healthy and well.											
Definitely true	46	50	53	34	48	43	47	42	28	44	58
Probably true	29	30	28	31	29	29	29	25	28	31	28
Probably false	8	8	7	10	7	9	8	10	11	9	6
Definitely false	5	5	4	7	4	6	5	8	9	6	3
Don't know	12	8	8	19	12	12	11	16	24	11	6
23l. A pregnant woman who has the AIDS virus can give the AIDS virus to her baby.											
Definitely true	80	82	83	75	77	82	79	83	72	81	83
Probably true	15	15	14	16	17	13	15	13	16	16	14
Probably false	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	–	0	0	0
Definitely false	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Don't know	5	3	2	9	6	4	4	4	11	3	2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, December 1988—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Education		
		18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
	Percent distribution[1]										
23m. There is a vaccine available to the public that protects a person from getting the AIDS virus.											
Definitely true	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	1
Probably true	3	3	2	4	2	3	2	6	4	2	2
Probably false	10	11	8	11	10	10	10	9	10	12	8
Definitely false	74	75	82	63	75	72	75	67	56	73	84
Don't know	12	9	7	20	11	13	11	16	27	11	5
23n. There is no cure for AIDS at present.											
Definitely true	85	87	88	81	86	85	86	83	77	87	89
Probably true	7	6	7	8	8	7	7	6	9	7	6
Probably false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Definitely false	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2
Don't know	4	3	2	7	4	4	4	6	10	3	1
24. How likely do you think it is that a person will get AIDS or the AIDS virus infection from—											
24a. Living near a hospital or home for AIDS patients?											
Very likely	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	3	3	1	1
Somewhat likely	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	5	6	4	3
Somewhat unlikely	7	8	6	7	8	7	7	9	9	8	6
Very unlikely	39	41	39	37	39	39	39	39	37	40	39
Definitely not possible	41	41	45	37	40	42	43	30	26	42	49
Don't know	7	4	5	13	7	8	6	14	20	5	2
24b. Working near someone with the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	4	5	2	1
Somewhat likely	11	12	10	10	10	11	11	9	12	12	9
Somewhat unlikely	13	14	13	12	13	12	12	13	13	14	12
Very unlikely	38	38	40	36	39	37	38	39	33	36	43
Definitely not possible	29	31	30	25	28	29	30	21	20	30	33
Don't know	8	3	5	14	8	7	7	13	18	6	3
24c. Eating in a restaurant where the cook has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	7	7	5	8	6	7	6	9	10	7	4
Somewhat likely	19	20	18	20	20	18	19	21	19	21	16
Somewhat unlikely	15	17	15	13	16	14	15	16	13	14	17
Very unlikely	28	28	31	24	28	28	29	27	19	27	34
Definitely not possible	19	21	20	14	17	20	19	14	13	19	21
Don't know	13	7	10	21	13	13	13	13	25	12	7
24d. Kissing—with exchange of saliva—a person who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	25	22	23	29	23	26	24	29	29	27	21
Somewhat likely	28	28	28	28	28	28	29	26	25	28	30
Somewhat unlikely	13	16	15	9	15	11	14	10	9	13	16
Very unlikely	15	17	19	10	16	15	16	16	10	14	20
Definitely not possible	7	9	7	5	6	8	7	5	5	7	8
Don't know	12	7	9	18	12	11	11	15	21	11	6
24e. Shaking hands, touching, or kissing on the cheek someone who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	3	4	2	1
Somewhat likely	7	7	6	8	8	6	7	10	10	7	6
Somewhat unlikely	13	14	13	13	14	13	13	15	15	14	12
Very unlikely	37	35	41	35	38	37	38	37	30	39	40
Definitely not possible	32	39	32	27	30	34	33	25	23	32	38
Don't know	8	3	5	14	8	7	7	9	18	6	3
24f. Sharing plates, forks, or glasses with someone who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	8	6	8	11	7	9	8	12	12	9	5
Somewhat likely	20	19	20	22	20	20	20	20	20	22	19
Somewhat unlikely	15	17	16	12	16	14	15	12	13	15	17
Very unlikely	27	28	30	23	29	25	27	27	18	26	33
Definitely not possible	18	23	18	13	16	20	18	14	12	18	21
Don't know	12	7	10	19	12	12	12	16	25	11	6
24g. Using public toilets?											
Very likely	6	5	4	8	5	7	5	12	11	7	2
Somewhat likely	13	13	11	14	13	12	12	14	16	14	9
Somewhat unlikely	13	12	13	13	13	12	13	10	12	14	12
Very unlikely	33	34	35	29	33	32	33	31	25	31	39
Definitely not possible	25	28	29	19	25	26	26	22	15	24	33
Don't know	11	8	8	17	11	11	11	11	21	11	6

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, December 1988—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Education		
		18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
	Percent distribution[1]										
24h. Sharing needles for drug use with someone who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	94	96	96	91	94	94	95	92	88	95	97
Somewhat likely	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	4	3	2
Somewhat unlikely	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Very unlikely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Definitely not possible	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Don't know	2	1	1	5	2	2	2	3	7	1	1
24i. Being coughed or sneezed on by someone who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	7	6	6	10	6	8	6	10	10	8	4
Somewhat likely	21	20	20	24	23	20	21	19	23	22	20
Somewhat unlikely	17	20	18	14	17	17	17	15	14	18	18
Very unlikely	28	29	32	22	29	27	28	29	19	25	35
Definitely not possible	15	19	15	10	13	16	15	13	9	16	16
Don't know	12	7	9	20	12	12	12	14	25	11	6
24j. Attending school with a child who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	2	2	2	3	2	2	1	4	4	2	1
Somewhat likely	6	5	6	7	6	6	6	7	8	6	5
Somewhat unlikely	11	11	12	11	11	11	11	10	11	13	9
Very unlikely	39	39	42	37	41	38	40	40	33	39	44
Definitely not possible	33	40	34	26	31	35	34	27	24	34	38
Don't know	8	4	5	16	9	8	7	12	20	6	4
24k. Mosquitoes or other insects?											
Very likely	10	11	9	10	11	9	9	15	17	10	6
Somewhat likely	17	19	17	14	19	15	16	19	18	18	16
Somewhat unlikely	8	10	8	7	9	8	9	6	6	9	10
Very unlikely	24	24	26	21	23	25	25	23	15	25	27
Definitely not possible	18	18	20	16	17	19	19	11	11	16	24
Don't know	23	18	19	31	22	24	22	26	34	23	17
25. Have you ever donated blood?											
Yes	41	35	42	43	52	30	43	29	27	38	51
No	59	65	58	56	48	69	56	71	73	62	49
Don't know	0	–	0	0	0	0	0	–	0	–	0
25a. Have you donated blood since March 1985?											
Yes	15	21	16	8	19	11	16	6	6	13	21
No	85	78	84	92	81	88	83	94	93	87	78
Don't know	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
26b. Have you donated blood in the past 12 months?											
Yes	7	10	8	5	10	5	8	1	3	6	11
No	92	90	92	94	90	94	91	98	97	93	88
Don't know	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
27. Have you ever heard of a blood test that can detect the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes	75	81	83	63	75	76	77	67	53	77	87
No	20	16	14	31	21	20	19	29	39	18	11
Don't know	4	3	3	6	4	5	4	4	8	4	2
28. To the best of your knowledge, are blood donations routinely tested now for the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes	67	71	74	55	66	68	69	58	44	68	78
No	3	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	2	4	4
Don't know	5	7	5	5	6	5	5	6	7	5	5
Never heard of test[4]	25	19	17	37	25	24	23	33	47	23	13
29a. Have you ever received counseling or had a talk with a health professional about taking the AIDS virus test?											
Yes	3	5	4	1	4	3	3	4	2	3	4
No	72	77	79	61	71	73	74	63	51	74	83
Don't know	0	–	0	0	0	0	0	–	0	0	0
Never heard of test[4]	25	19	17	37	25	24	23	33	47	23	13
29b. Was the discussion—[1,5]											
With a private doctor?	40	25	47	56	35	46	41	39	32	35	48
At a family-planning clinic?	6	5	8	–	3	9	4	20	22	3	2
On an AIDS hotline?	1	–	3	–	2	1	2	–	6	1	–
At a prenatal clinic?	5	12	1	–	–	12	4	7	7	6	4
At an STD or sexually transmitted disease clinic?	4	5	4	–	5	2	4	3	3	8	1
At an AIDS/HIV counseling and testing site?	10	11	12	–	12	6	11	6	4	10	11
With some other health professional?	44	56	39	31	41	49	39	65	43	46	43
With some other counselor?	18	28	7	29	18	19	19	10	39	31	1
30. During that discussion, did you receive information about how to avoid getting or passing on the AIDS virus?[5]											
Yes	52	53	57	34	56	47	47	75	43	69	42
No	48	47	43	66	44	53	53	25	57	31	58
Don't know	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, December 1988– Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Education		
		18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
	Percent distribution[1]										
31. Have you ever been advised by a health professional not to have the blood test for the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
No	75	80	82	62	75	75	76	66	53	77	86
Don't know	0	–	0	0	0	0	0	1	–	–	0
Never heard of test[4]	25	19	17	37	25	24	23	33	47	23	13
32. Have you ever been advised by friends or relatives not to have the blood test for the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
No	75	81	82	62	74	75	77	66	53	77	86
Don't know	0	–	0	0	0	0	0	1	–	–	0
Never heard of test[4]	25	19	17	37	25	24	23	33	47	23	13
33. Have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes[5]	19	29	21	10	24	15	20	14	10	17	26
No	57	54	62	53	52	61	57	52	44	61	60
Don't know	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	2
Never heard of test[4]	23	16	16	36	22	23	21	32	45	21	12
35a. How many times have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection?[6]											
Once	6	9	6	3	7	5	6	7	4	6	7
Twice	1	2	1	0	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
3–5 times	1	2	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
6–12 times	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
More than 12 times	0	–	0	0	0	0	0	–	–	0	0
Don't know[6]	10	14	12	5	13	8	12	4	5	10	14
Never heard of or never took test[5]	81	71	79	90	76	86	80	86	90	83	74
35b. How many times in the past 12 months have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection?[7]											
None in the past 12 months	2	4	3	1	3	2	2	3	2	3	2
Once	5	8	5	2	7	3	5	5	2	4	7
More than once	2	3	2	1	3	1	2	2	1	1	3
Don't know[6]	10	14	11	5	12	8	11	3	5	9	14
Never heard of or never took test[5]	81	71	79	90	76	85	80	86	90	83	74
36. Was the test/were any of the tests, including those you had before the past 12 months—[1]											
Part of a blood donation?[6,7]	72	69	72	75	70	74	76	35	61	68	76
Part of a blood transfusion?[8]	2	2	1	2	1	3	2	1	6	2	1
Voluntarily sought?[3]	16	15	17	17	15	18	14	40	26	18	13
Part of some other activity that requires a blood sample?[9]	12	15	11	9	15	7	10	28	16	15	10
38. Did you get the results of your test/any of your tests?[9]											
Yes	52	56	48	51	50	54	49	71	46	58	50
No	47	44	51	46	50	43	50	26	54	41	50
Don't know	1	0	1	3	–	3	1	2	–	2	1
41. Do you expect to have a blood test for the AIDS virus infection in the next 12 months?											
Yes	6	11	7	3	8	5	6	11	5	6	8
No	65	65	71	57	63	66	68	44	43	66	75
Don't know	5	6	5	3	5	4	4	11	5	5	4
Never heard of test[4]	25	19	17	37	25	24	23	33	47	23	13
42. Will the test be—[1,10]											
Part of a blood donation?	48	44	50	52	52	42	59	14	20	40	62
Voluntarily sought?	43	43	46	36	38	52	34	75	60	52	32
Part of some other activity that requires a blood sample?	16	20	12	15	19	12	16	18	26	15	14
44a. Did you have a blood tranfusion at any time between 1977 and 1985?											
Yes	6	4	5	7	5	7	6	4	8	6	5
No	93	95	93	91	94	92	92	96	90	93	94
Don't know	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	2	1	1
44b. Do you think the present supply of blood is safe for tranfusions?											
Yes	46	51	48	40	49	43	49	32	33	47	53
No	27	27	27	27	24	30	25	35	31	28	24
Other	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Don't know	27	21	25	33	27	26	25	33	36	25	22
45. Here are some methods people use to prevent getting the AIDS virus through sexual activity. How effective is—											
45a. Using a diaphragm?											
Very effective	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	1
Somewhat effective	11	14	9	11	12	11	11	13	11	12	10
Not at all effective	58	61	69	44	58	59	61	51	40	58	70
Don't know how effective	21	15	15	31	20	21	20	23	29	22	14
Don't know method	8	8	5	11	8	8	7	11	18	6	4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, December 1988—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Education		
		18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
	Percent distribution[1]										
45b. Using a condom?											
Very effective	31	38	33	24	34	29	31	32	22	33	35
Somewhat effective	53	53	55	51	52	54	54	47	46	53	57
Not at all effective	5	4	5	6	5	6	5	6	8	6	3
Don't know how effective	8	3	5	15	7	9	7	11	18	7	4
Don't know method	3	1	1	5	2	3	2	4	8	1	1
45c. Using a spermicidal jelly, foam, or cream?											
Very effective	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Somewhat effective	14	15	15	11	14	13	14	12	8	14	16
Not at all effective	56	60	63	44	55	56	56	48	43	57	61
Don't know how effective	22	16	16	32	21	22	21	27	30	22	17
Don't know method	8	7	5	12	8	8	7	11	18	5	4
45d. Having a vasectomy?											
Very effective	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	1
Somewhat effective	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	4	2	3	2
Not at all effective	70	69	80	60	71	68	73	58	50	70	81
Don't know how effective	19	18	12	26	18	19	17	24	28	19	12
Don't know method	7	7	4	11	6	9	6	11	18	5	3
45e. Two people who do not have the AIDS virus having sex only with each other?											
Very effective	82	84	86	77	83	82	84	75	69	83	89
Somewhat effective	8	10	8	8	8	9	8	11	11	9	6
Not at all effective	2	4	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2
Don't know how effective	5	2	3	11	6	5	5	7	12	4	3
Don't know method	2	0	1	3	1	2	1	3	4	1	1
46. What are your chances of having the AIDS virus?											
High	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	0
Medium	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	2
Low	13	19	15	6	15	11	13	14	9	10	18
None	82	76	81	89	80	85	83	77	84	85	79
Don't know	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	4	5	2	1
47. What are your chances of getting the AIDS virus?											
High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medium	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	2
Low	18	27	22	7	21	15	18	18	13	14	26
None	76	67	73	87	72	80	77	71	79	80	71
Don't know	3	2	2	4	4	2	2	6	6	3	1
High chance of already having AIDS virus	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	0
49. Do you say your chance of getting AIDS is high or medium because you—[11]											
Have had a blood transfusion?	4	2	7	4	1	8	4	4	3	8	–
Have had sexual contact with someone who might have the virus?	23	27	24	11	21	25	22	29	18	27	21
Some other reason?	53	56	52	45	57	46	53	51	39	57	56
52. Have you ever discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?											
Yes	62	70	71	47	57	67	63	60	43	60	76
No	37	30	29	52	43	33	36	40	56	39	24
Don't know	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
53. When was the last time you discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?											
0–3 days ago	6	6	8	5	6	7	6	10	5	6	8
4–7 days ago	8	10	10	5	7	9	8	9	7	7	10
8–14 days ago	7	7	8	5	6	8	7	8	4	7	7
15–31 days ago	14	16	16	11	14	15	15	12	8	14	17
More than 31 days ago	22	28	25	15	20	24	23	17	15	21	28
Don't know	4	2	4	6	4	4	5	4	4	5	4
Never discussed[12]	38	31	29	53	43	33	37	40	57	40	25
54. Have you ever personally known anyone with AIDS or the AIDS virus?											
Yes	11	9	15	7	10	11	11	12	4	8	17
No	88	89	83	92	89	87	88	85	93	90	82
Don't know	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	3	2	1
55. How long has it been since you saw this person?											
Within past 2 weeks	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2
2 weeks–less than 1 month	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
1 month–less than 3 months	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
3 months–less than 6 months	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2
6 months or more	7	6	9	5	6	7	7	6	2	5	11
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Never knew anyone with AIDS[13]	89	91	85	93	90	89	89	88	96	92	83

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, December 1988—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Education		
		18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
	Percent distribution[1]										
56. How well do you know this person?											
Very well	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2
Fairly well	3	3	4	1	3	3	3	5	1	3	4
Not very well	4	3	6	3	4	4	4	3	2	2	7
Don't really know personally	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	3	1	2	2
Other	1	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	–	0	2
Don't know how well	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Never knew anyone with AIDS[13]	89	91	85	93	90	89	89	88	96	92	83
57. Is any of these statements true for you?											
a. You have hemophilia and have received clotting factor concentrates since 1977.											
b. You are a native of Haiti or Central or East Africa who has entered the United States since 1977.											
c. You are a man who has had sex with another man at some time since 1977, even 1 time.											
d. You have taken illegal drugs by needle at any time since 1977.											
e. Since 1977, you are or have been the sex partner of any person who would answer yes to any of the items above (57 a-d).											
f. You have had sex for money or drugs at any time since 1977.											
Yes to at least 1 statement	3	5	3	1	3	2	2	7	3	3	3
No to all statements	97	95	96	99	96	97	97	93	97	97	97
Refused	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	–	0	0	0
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
58. The U.S. Public Health Service has said that AIDS is one of the major health problems in the country but exactly how many people it affects is not known. The Surgeon General has proposed that a study be conducted and blood samples be taken to help find out how widespread the problem is. If you were selected in this national sample of people to have their blood tested with assurances of privacy of test results, would you have the test?											
Yes	70	76	73	63	71	70	71	72	62	72	74
No	21	17	19	28	21	21	21	19	27	20	19
Other	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know	7	6	7	8	7	7	6	8	9	6	6
59. Why wouldn't you take part in the test?[14]											
Don't want to know if I have AIDS	4	8	4	3	4	5	4	7	3	6	4
Don't want any counseling about AIDS	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	1
Fear I'll get AIDS	6	9	6	5	6	6	5	9	8	6	5
Don't like to give blood	12	18	12	9	11	12	12	14	9	15	11
Don't trust Government programs	8	5	11	7	10	6	8	15	6	9	8
It is a waste of money	4	2	3	5	4	3	4	1	3	3	4
Don't believe AIDS can really be cured anyway	2	–	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
Other	51	44	49	55	50	52	54	41	45	46	60
Don't know	0	1	0	–	0	0	0	–	–	1	0
61. When Federal public health officials give information about AIDS, do you believe what they say or are you doubtful about the information they give?											
Believe	66	75	67	59	66	66	66	63	55	67	72
Doubtful	28	22	30	30	28	27	28	28	32	28	25
Don't know	6	3	4	11	6	6	6	8	12	5	3
62. When they [public health officials] give advice about how to help keep from getting AIDS, do you believe their advice or are you doubtful about what they say?											
Believe	80	86	82	73	81	78	80	76	69	83	83
Doubtful	16	13	16	19	15	17	16	20	22	15	14
Don't know	4	2	2	8	4	5	4	5	9	3	3

[1] Multiple responses may sum to more than 100.
[2] Based on persons answering yes to question 4 (includes yes to question 3).
[3] Based on persons answering yes to question 11, "Do you have any children aged 10 through 17?" Question 12 was "How many do you have?"
[4] Persons answering no or don't know to question 27.
[5] Based on persons answering yes to question 29a.
[6] Includes persons answering yes to question 26a and no or don't know to questions 27 and 33.
[7] Based on yes answers to question 33. See footnote 6.
[8] Persons answering no or don't know to questions 26a, 27, and 33.
[9] Based on persons answering yes to question 33; excludes persons answering yes to question 26a.
[10] Based on persons answering yes to question 41.
[11] Based on persons answering high or medium to question 46.
[12] Based on persons answering no or don't know to question 52.
[13] Based on persons answering no or don't know to question 54.
[14] Based on persons not answering yes to question 58.

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Technical notes

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) is a continuous, cross-sectional household interview survey. Each week, a probability sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population is interviewed by personnel of the U.S. Bureau of the Census to obtain information on the health and other characteristics of each member of the household. Supplemental information is collected for all or a sample of household members. The 1988 National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes was asked of a single randomly chosen adult 18 years of age or over in each family. The estimates in this report are based on completed interviews with 4,118 persons, or about 89 percent of eligible respondents.

Table I contains the estimated population size of each of the demographic subgroups included in table 1 to allow readers to derive provisional estimates of the number of people in the United States with a given characteristic, for example, the number of men who have had their blood tested for the AIDS virus. The population figures in table I are based on 1987 data from the NHIS; they are not official population estimates. Table II shows approximate standard errors of estimates presented in table 1. Both the estimates in table 1 and the standard errors in table II are provisional. They may differ slightly from estimates made using the final data file because they were calculated using a simplified weighting procedure that does not adjust for all the factors used in weighting the final data file. A final data file covering the entire data collection period for 1988 will be available later in 1989.

Table I. Sample sizes for the 1988 National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes and estimated adult population 18 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, December 1988

Characteristic	Sample size	Estimated population in thousands
All adults	4,118	175,260
Age		
18-29 years	1,023	47,500
30–49 years	1,564	66,900
50 years and over	1,531	60,860
Sex		
Male	1,706	83,073
Female	2,412	92,187
Race		
White	3,381	148,154
Black	526	19,168
Education		
Less than 12 years	965	40,061
12 years	1,506	68,055
More than 12 years	1,627	65,333

Table II. Standard errors, expressed in percentage points, of estimated percents from the National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes, by selected characteristics: United States, December 1988

		Age			Sex		Race		Education		
Estimated percent	Total	18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
5 or 95	0.4	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	1.2	0.9	0.7	0.7
10 or 90	0.6	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	1.7	1.2	1.0	1.0
15 or 85	0.7	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.8	2.0	1.5	1.2	1.1
20 or 80	0.8	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.9	2.2	1.7	1.3	1.3
25 or 75	0.9	1.7	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.0	2.4	1.8	1.4	1.4
30 or 70	0.9	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.0	2.6	1.9	1.5	1.5
35 or 65	1.0	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.2	1.1	2.7	2.0	1.6	1.5
40 or 60	1.0	2.0	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.1	2.7	2.0	1.6	1.6
45 or 55	1.0	2.0	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.1	2.8	2.1	1.6	1.6
50	1.0	2.0	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.1	2.8	2.1	1.7	1.6

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